



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

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Kerry John Whitney
Risk & Emergency Services Manager

September 14, 2018

Ms. Marlene Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: FCC Rule waiver Request for Live Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) and Emergency Alert System (EAS) Test

Dear Secretary Dortch:

Napa County Office of Emergency Services hereby requests approval of an FCC Rule Waiver in order to conduct a live test of the Napa County Emergency Alert System using Everbridge/Nixle notification on October 9, 2018.

The live test is scheduled to occur at 0930 hours on October 9, 2018 and will involve the Emergency Alert System (EAS) and Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) test by the Napa County Office of Emergency Services (OES). OES is the primary alert and warning authority for IPAWS in Napa County. This test would target the entire area of Napa County. This will be the first live test of the WEA system for Napa County. The purpose of conducting the test at this time is to ensure that emergency management officials in Napa have a clear understanding of how alerts would perform in our varied topography.

Since our catastrophic wildland fires last year, there has been a lack of faith in the emergency warning systems in Napa County. With updated policies and trainings, it is vital that we conduct a WEA/EAS test to inform our residents and build confidence.

Napa County wants our citizens to be familiar with the format of various alert and warning system formats. In the event of an emergency, WEA, EAS and other emergency messaging will direct citizens to our emergency information website (www.napacounty/oes/test.org) for more information.

The text of the test will read: **TEST - Napa County** www.napaoespsa.org **to provide feedback. No other action needed.**

OES has already begun to prepare a comprehensive communications plan and exercise plan. Staff have been in direct contact with jurisdictions who have successfully conducted WEA and EAS tests, including Sonoma County. Napa County will draw upon the experiences of those jurisdictions and lessons learned to fully inform and prepare this test effort.

As a part of this test, a media campaign to target our constituents, as well as surrounding counties, will be implemented to ensure public understanding of the need and value for the scheduled WEA/EAS test. Napa County will also reach out to the public information officers of the affected local jurisdictions to help with communication with local broadcasters, newspapers, and cable providers. Currently, Napa County is assessing the need for purchasing airtime and print space in local media markets.

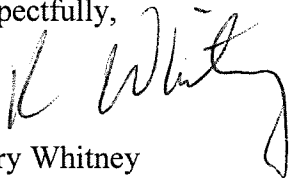
Additionally, the information will be posted on multiple websites and distributed on various social media accounts throughout Napa County and surrounding jurisdictions.

All emergency response agencies that operate within and adjacent to Napa County, including first responder organizations such as Law Enforcement, Fire/EMS agencies, and 911 public safety answering points (PSAPS), will be informed to ensure they are aware of the test and confirm to the public the WEA/EAS message is a test. In addition, a steering committee will aid in developing the exercise plan and communicate it with key stakeholder agencies.

Subsequent to the test, OES will execute the evaluation element of the exercise plan. The evaluation will have three components, several hundred staff and volunteers strategically located within the test area to evaluate the WEA capabilities, responses provided by the public through the website survey, and a contractor who will be telephonically surveying residents within Napa County.

We appreciate the opportunity to partner with the FCC and FEMA to test the IPAWS functionality within Napa County. Thank you for your consideration!

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kerry Whitney", written over a horizontal line.

Kerry Whitney
Napa County Risk/OES Manager

KJW/ kw